

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

| | |
|------------------|----------|
| STATE: | Illinois |
| COUNTY: | Cook |
| FOR NPS USE ONLY | |
| ENTRY DATE: | |

| | |
|------------------|---|
| 1. NAME | |
| COMMON: | City of Chicago Central Office Building |
| AND/OR HISTORIC: | Reid Murdoch Building |

| | |
|--|-------------------------|
| 2. LOCATION | |
| STREET AND NUMBER: 325 North LaSalle Street | |
| CITY OR TOWN: Chicago | CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: |
| STATE: Illinois | CODE: COUNTY: Cook |

| | | | |
|--|---|--|---|
| 3. CLASSIFICATION | | | |
| CATEGORY (Check One) | OWNERSHIP | STATUS | ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC |
| <input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Bath | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress | Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate) | | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum | <input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ _____ |

| | |
|---|--------------------|
| 4. OWNER OF PROPERTY | |
| OWNER'S NAME: City of Chicago | |
| STREET AND NUMBER: City Building, LaSalle and Washington Streets | |
| CITY OR TOWN: Chicago | STATE: Illinois |

| | |
|---|--------------------|
| 5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION | |
| COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: Cook County Recorder of Deeds | |
| STREET AND NUMBER: County Building 118 North Clark Street | |
| CITY OR TOWN: Chicago | STATE: Illinois |

| | |
|--|--|
| 6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS | |
| TITLE OF SURVEY: Historic American Buildings Survey | |
| DATE OF SURVEY: 1960 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Federal <input type="checkbox"/> State <input type="checkbox"/> County <input type="checkbox"/> Local |
| DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: Library of Congress | |
| STREET AND NUMBER: Washington | |
| CITY OR TOWN: Washington | STATE: D.C. |

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE:
IllinoisCOUNTY:
CookFOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY NUMBER
DATE

7. DESCRIPTION

| | | | | | | |
|-----------|---|--|-------------------------------|---------------------------------------|---|------------------------------------|
| CONDITION | (Check One) | | | | | |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Excellent | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good | <input type="checkbox"/> Fair | <input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated | <input type="checkbox"/> Ruins | <input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed |
| | (Check One) | | | (Check One) | | |
| | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered | <input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered | | <input type="checkbox"/> Moved | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site | |

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (If known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Original:

Designed by George C. Nimmons (1865-1947), the Reid Murdoch Building is a seven story building with two lower floors which serve as loading docks. The building was constructed as a food processing company and warehouse. The facade is dominated by a clock tower which rises three stories above the seventh floor. The divisions into zones with main, middle and upper floors are all well defined by the concrete and steel frame which on the exterior is faced with brick. The main floor and bays were distinguished by triangular projections of brick over the windows. The building's structure allows for ample usage of glass which is recessed between the brick piers and spandrels. The structure further creates large, open floors to be partitioned at the tenant's discretion. The upper floor spandrels, entrances, and bays and tower were accented by terra cotta decoration. The rectilinear design of these decorative elements show definite connections with the Chicago School and suggest Prairie School forms.

The tower rises from the center of the base of the building. The base defines the main entrance facing the river. The tower originally housed a water tower which supplied the sprinkling system. As a design element, the tower's strongly vertical lines counteract the strong horizontality of the structure.

The interior floors originally had showrooms on the main floor while the upper floors were devoted to office and manufacturing spaces.

Present:

The structure, as originally designed, remained intact until 1926 when LaSalle Street was widened and twenty feet (one bay) of the west end of the building were removed. The west wall was reconstructed and the end bay refaced. Later, the triangular projections were also removed. The terra cotta decoration at the entrances has also been removed.

The City of Chicago purchased the building in 1955. Functioning as the Central Office Building, it houses traffic courts, the State Attorney's Office, and several city departments. Extensive interior remodeling has been carried out and new entrances, elevators and escalators have been added. The exterior of the building was cleaned, helping to restore the original appearance of the building despite the alterations to the west side which has disturbed the structure's symmetry.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Pre-Columbian; 16th Century 18th Century 20th Century
 15th Century 17th Century 19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

1913-1914

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Political | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Phi- | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> Isoscopy | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscaps | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Human- | _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> Itation | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The simplicity, straight-forwardness and structural definition of the building make it an outstanding example of Chicago School industrial architecture. The geometry of the brick work, softened by the terra cotta detail and the cantilevered river walkway, create an attractive and considerate contribution to the riverside.

Nimmons was obviously concerned with following through on D. H. Burnham's suggestions in his Plan of Chicago of 1909 which gave consideration to the development of Chicago River front sites as aesthetic and commercial possibilities.

While the massive brick facade and tower differ somewhat from a Chicago School building's stylistic appearance, the human character of the School is evident in this building. In addition, the Reid Murdoch Building illustrates an approach to the School's functional and structural philosophies. Nimmon's point of departure, along with other second generation Chicago School architects such as Dwight Perkins and R.E. Schmidt, shows a growth and continuation of an applicable philosophy which is uniquely Chicago.

The building is important in the history of commerce because it shows the use of an important style for a mere manufacturing structure. It also reveals the importance in the commercial life of the city of Burnham's plan and of the willingness to allow manufacturing concerns to become important visual elements within the central area of a city.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

| | | |
|------------------|------|----------|
| STATE | | Illinois |
| COUNTY | | Cook |
| FOR NPS USE ONLY | | |
| ENTRY NUMBER | DATE | |

(Number all entries)

- #6. Illinois Historic Structures Survey (state); 1972
1800 South Prairie Avenue, Chicago, Illinois
- Commission on Chicago Historical and Architectural
Landmarks (local); 1973
320 North Clark Street, Room 800, Chicago, Illinois
- Landmarks Preservation Council and Service Inventory
(local); 1974
407 South Dearborn, Chicago, Illinois
- Department of Interior Architectural Park (national);
1972
- #9. Gilbert, Paul and Bryson, Charles Lee. Chicago and Its
Makers. Chicago: Felix Mendelsohn Publishers, 1925,
pp. 181, 439
- Nimmons, George C. "Modern Industrial Plants,"
Architectural Record, February, 1919, pp. 142-68.
- Randall, Frank A. History of the Development of
Building Construction in Chicago, Urbana:
University of Illinois Press, 1949, pp. 241, 247.
- Siegel, Arthur, ed., Chicago's Famous Buildings,
Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1969,
pp. 142-43.
- "Some Industrial Buildings by Nimmons," Architectural
Record, August, 1915, pp. 228-45.

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Bach, Ira J. Chicago on Foot. Chicago: Follett Publishing Co., 1969, pp. 96-7
 Burnham, Daniel H. and Bennett, Edward H. Plan of Chicago. Charles Moore, ed., New York: DeCapo Press, 1970, pp. 197, 112
 Condit, Carl W. The Chicago School of Architecture. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1966, pp. 178-181
 Fisher, Roy M. "City's New Building Opens in Three Weeks" Chicago Daily News, December 7, 1955.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

| LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY | | | | O R | LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES | | | |
|--|----------|---------|---------|--------|---|---------|---------|--|
| CORNER | LATITUDE | | | | LONGITUDE | | | |
| | Degrees | Minutes | Seconds | | Degrees | Minutes | Seconds | |
| NW | ° | ' | " | ° | ' | " | | |
| NE | ° | ' | " | ° | ' | " | | |
| SE | ° | ' | " | ° | ' | " | | |
| SW | ° | ' | " | ° | ' | " | | |

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY:

approximately one

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

| STATE: | CODE | COUNTY | CODE |
|--------|------|---------|------|
| STATE: | CODE | COUNTY: | CODE |
| STATE: | CODE | COUNTY: | CODE |
| STATE: | CODE | COUNTY: | CODE |

FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: _____
 ORGANIZATION: Kathleen Lamb
Landmarks Preservation Council
 STREET AND NUMBER: _____
407 South Dearborn Street
 CITY OR TOWN: Chicago STATE: Illinois CODE: _____
 DATE: May, 1974

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National State Local

Name _____

Title _____

Date _____

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

 Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date _____

ATTEST:

 Keeper of The National Register

Date _____

ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

STATE ILLINOIS

Date Entered AUG 28 1975

Name

Location

Reid Murdoch Building

Chicago
Cook County

COPY OF CONGRESSIONAL NOTIFICATION

Also Notified

Hon. Charles H. Percy
Hon. Adlai E. Stevenson
Hon. Cardiss Collins